

## Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01

CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FAA-00 DHA-02 IO-11 /074 W  
----- 072321

O R 131415Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SYCSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4952

INFO AMEMBASSY AIBIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0155

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, AO, MILI

SUBJ: DETENTION OF US AIRCRAFT IN ANGOLA

REFS: STATE 35018, STATE 34057, CAPE TOWN 146 (NOTAL)

1. LOCAL PRESS FEBRUARY 13 CITED EXECUTIVE OF SUIDWES  
LUGDIENS AT WINDHOEK, ALWYN KOORTS, AS SAYING THE AIRCRAFT  
SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN INTERCEPTED 320 KM OFF ANGOLAN COAST,  
AND THAT A RADIO MESSAGE HAD "CONFIRMED THAT THE AIRCRAFT  
HAD BEEN FORCED DOWN IN ANGOLA." MIGS NOT MENTIONED.

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2. UPON RECEIPT STATE 35018 WE MENTIONED FOREGOING AND REUTERS DISPATCH CLAIMING MIG INVOLVEMENT TO CAPT THORPE OF SAFMARINE (CAPE TOWN 0146). THORPE SAID KOORTS HAD BEEN MISQUOTED. THERE HAD BEEN NO RADIO CONTACT WITH AIRCRAFT. ASKING THAT HIS INFORMATION BE CLOSELY HELD, THORPE SAID SAG BUREAU OF STATE SECURITY HAD INFORMED SUIDWES OFFICE IN WINDHOEK THAT IT HAD INTERCEPTED A MESSAGE ASSUMED TO BE FROM SOME MPLA ELEMENT TO LUANDA SAYING THAT A US PLANE HAD BEEN FORCED DOWN. NO RPT NO OTHER DETAILS HAD BEEN PROVIDED. SAFMARINE HAS NO INTENTION MAKING THESE DETAILS PUBLIC.

3. IN SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF SEIZURE WITH DEPT FOREIGN AFFAIRS WE NOTED PRESS SPECULATION UNHELPFUL SINCE THERE SEEMED TO BE NO CONFIRMATION THAT PLANE HAD BEEN FORCED DOWN, UNLESS SAG MIGHT HAVE INFORMATION TO CONTRARY. DFA OFFICER CALLED BACK SHORTLY THEREAFTER TO SAY CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES HAD CONFIRMED THERE HAD BEEN NO RPT NO RADIO CONTACT WITH THE AIRCRAFT AND THAT AS FAR AS WAS KNOWN, PRESS SPECULATION WAS BASELESS. RESPONDING TO OBSERVATION THAT WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY AND ALL INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO SAG ON SUBJECT, OFFICER PROMISED TO EXPLORE MATTER WITH OTHER ELEMENTS SAG AND PROVIDE ANY AVAILABLE ADDITIONAL DATA. WILL FORWARD IF AND WHEN PASSED TO US.

4. IN THOUGHT THAT NIGERIAN COUP MAY HAMPER PROGRESS THROUGH THAT CHANNEL, WE WONDER IF OAU OFFICIALS MIGHT BE WILLING TO TAKE SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO TOP LEADERSHIP, IF DEPT SHOULD WISH TO AUTHORIZE SUCH AN APPROACH.  
BOWDLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT DETENTION, INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, ALLEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976CAPET00155  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 35018, 76 STATE 34057, 76 CAPE TOWN 146  
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**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 22 JUN 2004  
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**Review Referrals:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DETENTION OF US AIRCRAFT IN ANGOLA  
**TAGS:** MILI, US, AO, SUIDWES AIRLINES  
**To:** SS  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006